

Teacher's Guide



Fee Waivers for Educational Purposes

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site welcomes the opportunity to provide interpretive and educational programs to your students. The park charges a \$4.00 entrance fee for all adults (over age 17) as required by the National Park Service's Recreational Fee Demonstration Program.

This entrance fee can only be waived under the following guidelines:

Federal law provides for granting a fee waiver to *bona-fide educational and scientific institutions*, but the waiver is not automatically granted. To be provided a waiver, a group must apply in advance with:

1. A copy of documentation of its recognition as an educational institution by an appropriate governmental authority and,
2. A letter stating the specific relation of park resources to educational objectives. A statement that a visit is for "educational purposes" is not sufficient.

The school's letterhead is sufficient to verify official recognition for *public schools only*. Other educational institutions may use:

- an educational institution tax exemption certificate;
- a letter of recognition from an appropriate state or federal bureau; or
- a letter of accreditation.

The written request to waive fees, supported by documentation of educational accreditation, must be received at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site prior to the date of your tour. If this request and documentation is not received and approved in advance, the adults in your group should be prepared to pay the entrance fee.

Documentation may be sent via mail (or fax to 610-582-2768), to the attention of the Park Education Coordinator. Please direct questions to the Park Education Coordinator at 610-582-8773.

On the reverse is a sample request for waiver of entrance fees for your use.

Sample Request for Waiver of Entrance Fees

Date _____

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to request the entrance fee be waived for my school's visit to Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site on _____. We will be using the park resources for educational purposes.

Our trip to Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site has direct links to our curriculum. In social studies we focus on Pennsylvania history. Ironmaking has been discussed during our studies of life in the 1700's and 1800's.

We are hoping that this trip will give students a better understanding of how iron was made in Pennsylvania during the 18th and 19th centuries. This trip will illustrate and reinforce what our students have learned about the very important role ironmaking played in making our Commonwealth a vital part of our National economy.

Sincerely,
